



Year 1 – Squirrel Class - Autumn 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back! We are very impressed with how quickly the children have settled in and we are enjoying getting to know them.

We hope they have a very happy and enjoyable year.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- **Library Books:** The children will visit the library every Friday morning. Please help them to put their library books in their book bags to bring into school.
- **PE:** Children need to have a fully labelled, complete PE kit in school every day. They will need trainers (preferably with Velcro unless they can tie laces independently), plain blue or black jogging bottoms, a house colour or white T-shirt and black shorts.
- **PE days:** Tuesday afternoon is outdoor PE. Friday morning is indoor PE.
- **Reading:** reading diaries and reading books need to be brought in each day. Please write in the diaries every time your child reads. They love getting house points for this.
- **Homework:**
 - **Spellings:** we have our spellings 'quiz' each week on a Monday morning.
 - **Reading at home:** please continue to listen to your child read daily and support them practising their Phase 5 phonics.
 - **Help with homework:** please let us know if you would like support with the learning at home

KEY DATES

- Parents Evening - 5th and 7th October
- Art Fair - 8th October
- Harvest Festival - 9th October
- Flu Vaccination - 16th October
- Inset Day - 2nd November
- Individual School Photos - 16th November
- Be Bright Be seen for Children in Need - 20th November
- Year 1 Nativity - 9th December
- Christmas School Disco - 14th December
- Christmas Dinner day - 17th December
- Candlelit Carols in church - 18th December

SCHOOL ENRICHMENT: TRIPS, VISITORS AND EXPERIENCES

As part of our Geography topic, 'My Special Corner of The World', we will be helping Binky Bear (who has travelled from the city of Winchester to the village of Otterbourne on the No.1 bus), to find our school. We will be going to the bus stop and thinking about the directions he needs to find us.

THE PILLARS OF OUR CURRICULUM

This term, will be focusing on:

Diversity and Equality - through our topics Year 1 will be looking at how every place is different and how that makes our world an interesting place.

OVERVIEW OF LEARNING IN SQUIRRELS THIS HALF TERM

For more detailed information, please visit the [Our Curriculum](#) pages of our website. The .pdf version of this newsletter also includes links to some subject pages.

MATHS ([click here](#))

- Number, place value, addition and subtraction
- Measurement
- Addition and subtraction

ENGLISH ([click here](#))

- We will continue to develop our phonological knowledge in order to write simple sentences and use a capital letter, finger space and full stop.

SCIENCE

Being scientific with trees - we will be learning how to be a scientist and 'being scientific' with trees through the Autumn term.

Our Longitudinal Study this year will be focused on the way trees change.

MUSIC

My favourite things – we will be exploring how we keep the pulse together through music and movement.

Born in a Barn - we will be learning and practising our Nativity songs ready for our performance on the 9th December.

COMPUTING

Bee-Bots – we will be learning how to construct algorithms through programming Bee-Bots with instructions to meet a specific goal.

Online Safety, Media Balance & Wellbeing – we will begin to develop an understanding of how use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private.

GEOGRAPHY

My Special Corner of the World – We will be exploring where our school is in the world, understand its proximity to Winchester as a major city and recognise key features of our school and Otterbourne as a village.

ART and DESIGN / DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Colour Mixing – we will be learning to experiment with paint mixing to make a range of secondary colours and develop creative skills through different media.

Delightful Decorations – we will be learning how to design and make a Christmas decoration and begin to develop sewing skills.

RE

Creation – we will be learning about the meaning of 'creation' and the Christmas Story.

Thankfulness – we will be thinking about the concept of thankfulness and how Christians believe Jesus was the King of the Jews.

PSHE

Relationships, VIPs - We will be exploring the Very Important People (VIPs) in children's lives and the ways in which they can develop positive relationships with them.

Relationships, Be Yourself – We will be learning about how to be yourself, and enabling children to recognise their positive qualities, as well as how it is important to appreciate individuality.